

UPI-41
(DIRKSEN-CUBA)

WASHINGTON—SENATE GOP LEADER EVERETT DIRKSEN SAID TODAY HE HAS INFORMATION THAT FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS, PRESUMABLY CIVILIAN, WERE KILLED IN THE ILL-FATED BAY OF PIGS INVASION ATTEMPT.

DIRKSEN TOLD NEWSMEN THE INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED BY THE GOP STAFF INVESTIGATING THE 1961 CUBAN INVASION AND, HE ASSUMES, IS KNOWN TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

DIRKSEN DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON THE INFORMATION BUT INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE MORE TO SAY IN A SPEECH HE WILL MAKE, PERHAPS LATER THIS WEEK, AND IN A REPORT TO SENATE REPUBLICANS. HE ANNOUNCED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HE WAS ASSEMBLING DATA ON THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION IN THE INTEREST OF HISTORICAL ACCURACY AFTER ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY MADE A STATEMENT ON THE MATTER.

DIRKSEN SAID HE FELT CERTAIN THE REPORTED DOWNING OF FOUR U.S. PILOTS HAD BEEN "VERIFIED" BY HIS STAFF. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY MORE AT THIS TIME, BECAUSE THIS INFORMATION WAS BUT PART OF THE DATA HE IS ACCUMULATING FOR HIS REPORT.

2/25—JR1118 A ES

UPI-54
ADD DIRKSEN-CUBA, WASHINGTON (UPI-41)

DIRKSEN SAID LATER HE PLANS TO REPORT FIRST TO FELLOW REPUBLICANS, PROBABLY AT THEIR REGULAR WEEKLY LUNCHEON MEETING NEXT TUESDAY, THEN DELIVER HIS SENATE SPEECH.

THE U.S. PILOTS TO WHOM DIRKSEN REFERRED WERE DESCRIBED AS UNDER CONTRACT TO THE CUBAN REFUGEE FORCE WHICH WAS REPULSED BY CASTRO'S GROUND AND AIR UNITS WHEN IT MADE ITS BEACHHEAD EFFORT AT THE BAY OF PIGS IN APRIL 1961.

THE ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN HAS TAKEN ISSUE WITH THE CONTENTION OF SOME DEMOCRATS THAT THE BAY OF PIGS BATAILLE IS "SPILLED MILK" ABOUT WHICH NOTHING NEEDS TO BE DONE. DIRKSEN SAID TODAY THERE IS "SPILLED BLOOD" INVOLVED AND THAT THE WHOLE RECORD SHOULD BE ACCURATELY PRESENTED BECAUSE THE CUBAN SITUATION WILL BE "WITH US FOR SOME TIME TO COME."

2/25—E 1155 A ES